



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)



Home

Meetings

Members

Officers

Newsletter

E. Iowa DX Bulletin

Buy-Sell-Trade

DXCC Card Checking

About EIDXA

History

Constitution & Bylaws

DX Resources

## The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 255, January 3, 2025

**Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor**

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in **red**. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active; articles that are announcements of ongoing operations, or that have no specified end date, will be removed after three weeks.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section, updated daily; and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

The bulletin is available at <http://www.arrl.org>

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Ohio-Penn DX Bulletin (OPDX)

Edited by Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW. Although OPDX is no longer published as a weekly bulletin, Tedd still sends DX news emails.

We will occasionally publish some of them.

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

Dr. Tony Phillips' [SpaceWeather.com](http://www.SpaceWeather.com), used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)



### Solar-Terrestrial Data

04 Jan 2025 1815 GMT  
 SFI: 200 SN: 195  
 A-Index: 9  
 K-Index: 3  
 X-Ray: C4.4  
 304A: 161.3 @ SEM  
 Ptn Flx: 62  
 Elc Flx: 3590  
 Aurora: 2/n=1.99  
 Mag (Bz): -9.4  
 Solar Wind: 478.4  
 Geomag Field UNSETTLD  
 Sig Noise Lvl S2-S3  
 Current Solar Image



<http://www.nonbh.com>  
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## DX News

**3D2, FIJI.** Gerhard, OE3GEA is QRV as **3D2GE** from Nadi (OC-016) and Nacula (OC-156) **until January 7th**. Activity is holiday style on 30 to 10 meters using only CW. QSL via [OE3GEA](#).  
 -[ARRL DX Bulletin # 48 December 26, 2024] (1227-0110)

**3X, GUINEA.** Jean-Philippe, F1TMY (ex-J28PJ), will be back on the air as **3X1A** **until mid-2026** from Conakry on 80-6m and via QO-100. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).  
 -[DXNL # 2439 January 1, 2025] (0103-0124)

**7P, LESOTHO.** Mark, KW4XJ, and his daughter Arina, KO4PZT (13 years old), are active **until mid-2025** as **7P8AB** and **7P8NB**. QSL via [KW4XJ](#).

-[DXNL # 2439 January 1, 2025] (0103-0207)

**8Q, MALDIVES.** Fabian, DF3XY and Xenia, DO4FX will be QRV as **8Q7XF** and **8Q7FX**, respectively, from **January 5th to 13th**. Activity will be on 40, 30, and 20 meters using FT8. QSL 8Q7XF via [DF3XY](#); QSL 8Q7FX via [DO4FX](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 1 January 2, 2025] (0103-0117)

**8R, GUYANA.** Aldir, PY1SAD will be active again as **8R1TM** from Georgetown, Guyana from **January 1st to February 8th**. He will operate CW, SSB and digital modes on all bands and via satellite. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, QRZ Logbook, or direct via [PY1SAD](#).

-[425DXN # 1755 December 21, 2024] (1227-0207)

**9V, SINGAPORE.** Celebrating the 60th anniversary since Singapore became an independent republic (August 9, 1965), Singapore Amateur Radio Transmitting Society's members are allowed to replace their normal prefix (9V1) with the special prefix **S6Ø** from **January 1st through August 9th**. For instance, SARTS President 9V1SA will be using **S6ØSA**.

-[425DXN # 1756 December 28, 2024] (1227-0117)

**9Y, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.** Earl, WA3DX will be QRV as **9Y4/WA3DX** from Trinidad (SA-011) from **December 29th to January 14th**. Activity will be 40 to 10 meters using FT8 and FT4. QSL via [WA3DX](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 48 December 26, 2024] (1227-0117)

**C5, THE GAMBIA.** Billy, F4GJE will be QRV as **C5RK** from Kotu City on **January 4th and 5th**. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL via [EA7FTR](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 1 January 2, 2025] (0103-0110)

**CN, MOROCCO.** Ralf, DB4REB will be active as **CN2REB** while vacationing in Morocco from **November 30th to January 30, 2025**. He plans to operate CW, FT8 and SSB on various bands from Agadir and some POTA sites along the coast. See <https://www.qrz.com/db/CN2REB> for updates. QSL via eQSL, or [DB4REB](#).

-[425DXN # 1751 November 23, 2024] (1129-0131)

**CT, PORTUGAL.** Celebrating the New Year, special callsign **CS2Ø25HNY** will be active from Portugal on **January 1st-7th**. QSL via [CT1REP](#).

-[425DXN # 1756 December 28, 2024] (1227-0110)

**DXCC TOP TWENTY.** Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of January 3, 2025:

|          |                    |          |                                  |
|----------|--------------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| 1. P5    | DPRK (North Korea) | 11. ZS8  | Prince Edward & Marion Islands   |
| 2. BS7H  | Scarborough Reef   | 12. KH4  | Midway Island                    |
| 3. CEØX  | San Felix Islands  | 13. VKØM | Macquarie Island                 |
| 4. BV9P  | Pratas Island      | 14. PYØS | Saint Peter And Paul Rocks       |
| 5. KH7K  | Kure Island        | 15. KP5  | Desecheo Island                  |
| 6. KH3   | Johnston Island    | 16. VPØS | South Sandwich Islands           |
| 7. 3Y/P  | Peter 1 Island     | 17. ZL9  | New Zealand Subantarctic Islands |
| 8. FT5/X | Kerguelen Island   | 18. FK/C | Chesterfield Islands             |
| 9. YVØ   | Aves Island        | 19. VKØH | Heard Island                     |
| 10. 3Y/B | Bouvet Island      | 20. FT/T | Tromelin Island                  |

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

-[KØCF January 3, 2025] (0103-0124)

**DL, GERMANY.** Radio amateurs in Kamenz (DOK S22) celebrate their city's 800th anniversary with the callsign **DM8ØØKM** (special DOK 800KM) **throughout 2025**. QSLs will be sent automatically via the bureau; logs are uploaded to ClubLog and qrz.com.

-[DXNL # 2439 January 1, 2025] (0103-0124)

**DL, GERMANY.** The Deutsches Museum in Munich, one of the largest science and technology museums in the world (<https://www.deutsches-museum.de>), celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2025. **DL1ØØDM** is the special callsign to be used **throughout the year** by the amateur radio station which is

part of and regularly active from the museum's "Electronics" permanent exhibition. QSL via [DL8FA](#).  
-[425DXN # 1756 December 28, 2024] (0103-0124)

**FG, GUADELOUPE.** Jeff, VA3QSL will be active holiday style as **FG/VA3QSL** from Guadeloupe (NA-102) on **January 9th-26th**. He will operate SSB, CW and digital modes on 40-6 meters. QSLs via LoTW, or [VA3QSL](#).  
-[425DXN # 1756 December 28, 2024] (0103-0124)

**FO, FRENCH POLYNESIA.** Hardy, DL7JLL is QRV as **FO/DL7JLL** from Mangareva Island (OC-063) **until January 15th**. Activity is on 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB. QSL to [DL7JLL](#).  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 47 December 19, 2024] (1220-0117)

**GM, SCOTLAND.** Terry, GM3WUX will be QRV as **GB2ØØLB** from **January 4th to 31st** to celebrate the bicentenary of the invention of the Braille code. Activity is on the HF bands using mainly CW. QSL via [MØOXO's OQRS](#).  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 1 January 2, 2025] (0103-0131)

**GW, WALES.** Kev, GWØPUH will be active as **GB9KW** on **January 1st-28th** using vintage equipment manufactured by KW Electronics Ltd during the 1960s and 1970s. Main activity will be over the "KW Weekend" (**January 4th-5th**). Other special callsigns are expected to be on the air, notably **GB2KW** from Scotland, **GB5KWD** and **GB6KW** from England, and possibly others. QSL via operator's instructions.  
-[425DXN # 1756 December 28, 2024] (1227-0131)

**H4Ø, TEMOTU PROVINCE.** Darren, VK4MAP is QRV as **H4ØDA** from Pigeon Island (OC-065) **until January 16th**. Activity is on 80, 40, 20, 15, 12, and 10 meters using SSB. QSL via operator's instructions.  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 1 January 2, 2025] (0103-0117)

**HR, HONDURAS.** Alex, K6VHF, returns to Roatan Island (NA-057) and operates as **K6VHF/HR9** from **January 5th to 12th**. QRV on 160-6m and via satellites IO-117 and RS-44. QSL via [K6VHF](#), [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW, eQSL.  
-[DXNL # 2439 January 1, 2025] (0103-0117)

**HR, HONDURAS.** Dave, VE3VSM will be QRV as **VE3VSM/HR9**, from Roatan Island (NA-057) from **January 6th to 25th**. Activity will be on 30 and 20 meters using CW and FT8. QSL to [K6VHF](#).  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 1 January 2, 2025] (0103-0124)

**I, ITALY.** Throughout 2025 ARI Fidenza will use a series of special callsigns, each representing one of the many patents registered by Guglielmo Marconi between 1897 and 1926: **II4FPEN** (January), **II4FPUS** (February), **II4SHLD** (March), **II4GHPR** (April), **II4JGGR** (May), **II4RXOS** (June), **II4COHR** (July), **II4LDMA** (August), **II4RADS** (September), **II4WLTX** (October), **II4EACC** (November) and **II4TJTB** (December). Information about the "Marconi - Patented By" award: <http://www.arifidenza.it/>. QSL via [IQ4FE](#) and LoTW.  
-[425DXN # 1757 January 4, 2025] (0103-0207)

**K, UNITED STATES.** The Straight Key Century Club's annual on-air event, commemorating the club's founding in 2006 and celebrating the original instruments of early radiotelegraphy (straight key, bug and cootie keys), will run on **January 2nd-31st**. Look for **K3Y** to be aired from the ten US call areas (**K3Y/Ø** through **K3Y/9**), plus **/KH6**, **/KL7** and **/KP4**. Information on the event and QSL instructions can be found on <https://skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y.php>.  
-[425DXN # 1756 December 28, 2024] (1227-0131)

**LA, NORWAY.** Special callsign **LA1ØØA** is the for NRRL's Midt-Troms Gruppen (LA6M, <https://www.la6m.no/>) to use **throughout 2025** to mark the 100th anniversary of the first amateur radio two-way contact between Norway and the US, made by Johannes Diesen, LA1A from Moen in Malselv municipality and UIYB at Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire (November 25, 1925). QSL via the bureau, QRZ Logbook, or via [LA1ØØA](#).  
-[425DXN # 1756 December 28, 2024] (1227-0124)

**OE, AUSTRIA.** Special event station **OE65XMAS** is QRV **until January 6th**. QSL via bureau.  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 47 December 19, 2024] (1220-0110)

**OZ, DENMARK.** Special callsign **OZ4ØØPOST** will be used by members of Experimenterende Danske Radioamatører to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Royal Danish Post Office, established on December 24, 1624, under King Christian IV. Watch for activity from **December 24th to January 5th**. See <https://www.grz.com/db/OZ400POST> for information about the Post Award. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), or via the bureau to [OZ1ACB](#).  
-[425DXN # 1755 December 21, 2024] (1220-0110)

**PA, NETHERLANDS.** Special callsign **PC8ØTT** is the for members of VERON Leiden (PI4LDN) to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands during World War II (May 5, 1945). Look for activity from **January 1st until June 1st**. The special callsign honors the memory of Rudolf Tappenbeck (PCTT), a pioneer of Dutch amateur radio who died in Neuengamme concentration camp on December 21, 1944. QSL via the bureau to [PI4LDN](#).  
-[425DXN # 1756 December 28, 2024] (1227-0124)

**PA, NETHERLANDS.** Celebrating Christmas and the New Year, special callsign **PH24XMAS** will be active on **December 6th-28th**, followed by **PH25HNY** from **December 28th to January 5th**. Paper QSL cards will not be provided.  
-[425DXN # 1752 November 30, 2024] (1206-0110)

**PACIFIC TOUR.** Reportedly, Gerhard, OE3GEA will be active holiday style from New Caledonia, Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa, American Samoa and Hawaii from **December 20th to January 21st**:

|                   |                   |                    |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| January 9th-12th  | <b>5WØGE</b>      | Apia (OC-097)      |
| January 12th-15th | <b>KH8/OE3GEA</b> | Pago Pago (OC-045) |
| January 18th-21st | <b>KH6/OE3GEA</b> | Hawaii             |

He will operate CW on 30-10 meters. QSL via [OE3GEA](#).

-[425DXN # 1754 December 14, 2024] (1220-0124)

**PACIFIC TRIP.** Hardy, DL7JLL will be active as **FO/DL7JLL** from Mangareva (OC-063), French Polynesia and as **VP6JLL** from Pitcairn Island (OC-044) from **December 18th to January 15th**. He will operate SSB only on 20, 15 and 10 meters. QSL via [DL7JLL](#).  
-[425DXN # 1754 December 14, 2024] (1213-0117)

**TI, COSTA RICA.** Mario, IK1FEM is QRV as **TI7/IK1FEM** from Potrero **until January 11th**. Activity is on the HF bands using FT8 and QRP power. QSL via operator's instructions.  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 1 January 2, 2025] (0103-0110)

**TJ, CAMEROON.** Thierry, TK1CX is QRV as **TJ/TK1CX** **until the end of February**. Activity is in his spare time on 20 to 10 meters using mostly FT8 and low power. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, or [EA5ZD](#).  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 47 December 19, 2024] (1220-0228)

**UA, EUROPEAN RUSSIA.** Special callsigns **R2Ø25NY** and **UE25NY** will be active from **December 29th to January 8th** for the annual Russian New Year radio marathon organized by the Miller DX Club (<https://mdxc.ru/>). QSL via [RQ7L](#).  
-[425DXN # 1754 December 14, 2024] (1227-0110)

**V4, ST. KITTS & NEVIS.** Kim, K5TU will be active as **V4/K5TU** from St. Kitts (NA-104) on **January 7th to 14th**. He will operate CW and FT8. QSL via LoTW.  
-[425DXN # 1757 January 4, 2025] (0103-0117)

**V4, ST. KITTS & NEVIS.** Brian, GW4DVB will be QRV as **V4/G4DVB** from Calypso Bay, St. Kitts (NA-104) from **December 31st to January 6th**. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. QSL via [GW4DVB](#).  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 48 December 26, 2024] (1227-0110)

**VP5, TURKS & CAICOS IS.** Operators [N5VOE](#), [WD5JR](#) and [KJ5CMP](#) are QRV as **VP5/home calls** from Providenciales (NA-002) **until January 16th**. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and

possibly some FT8. They plan to activate 4 of the 6 POTA parks. QSL to home calls.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 1 January 2, 2025] (0103-0117)

**VP6, PITCAIRN I.** Hardy, DL7JLL, signs **VP6JLL** from Pitcairn Island (OC-044) from **December 18th to January 15th**. QRV on 20, 15, and 10m with 50W and a wire antenna on SSB. QSL via [DL7JLL](#).

-[DXNL # 2437 December 18, 2024] (1220-0117)

**VU, INDIA.** Members of the West Bengal Radio Club are QRV with special event call sign **AU2WBRC** until **January 20th** for the Ganaga Sagar Mela Festival. QSL via [VU2SB](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 1 January 2, 2025] (0103-0124)

**VU, INDIA.** Kaustav, VU2UUU is QRV with special call sign **AT2Ø25** until **January 15th** while studying winter propagation, and monitoring solar cycle conditions. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via operator's instructions.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 47 December 19, 2024] (1220-0117)

**YB, INDONESIA.** Jozef, ON6HX is guest operating as **YB9/ON6HX** from Lombok Island (OC-150) until **February 6th**. QSL via [ON6HX](#), LoTW, and eQSL.

-[425DXN # 1757 January 4, 2025] (0103-0207)

**YB, INDONESIA.** Indra, **YB8QT**, remains active from Siau Barat, Sangihe Island (OC-210) into 2025. QSL via [IK2DUW](#).

-[DXNL # 2439 January 1, 2025] (0103-0124)

**ZF, CAYMAN IS.** Bruce, KØBJ will be active holiday style as **ZF2BJ** from the Cayman Islands (NA-016) on **January 5th to 17th**. He will operate CW and possibly FT8. QSL via LoTW, or via [KØBJ](#).

-[425DXN # 1757 January 4, 2025] (0103-0117)

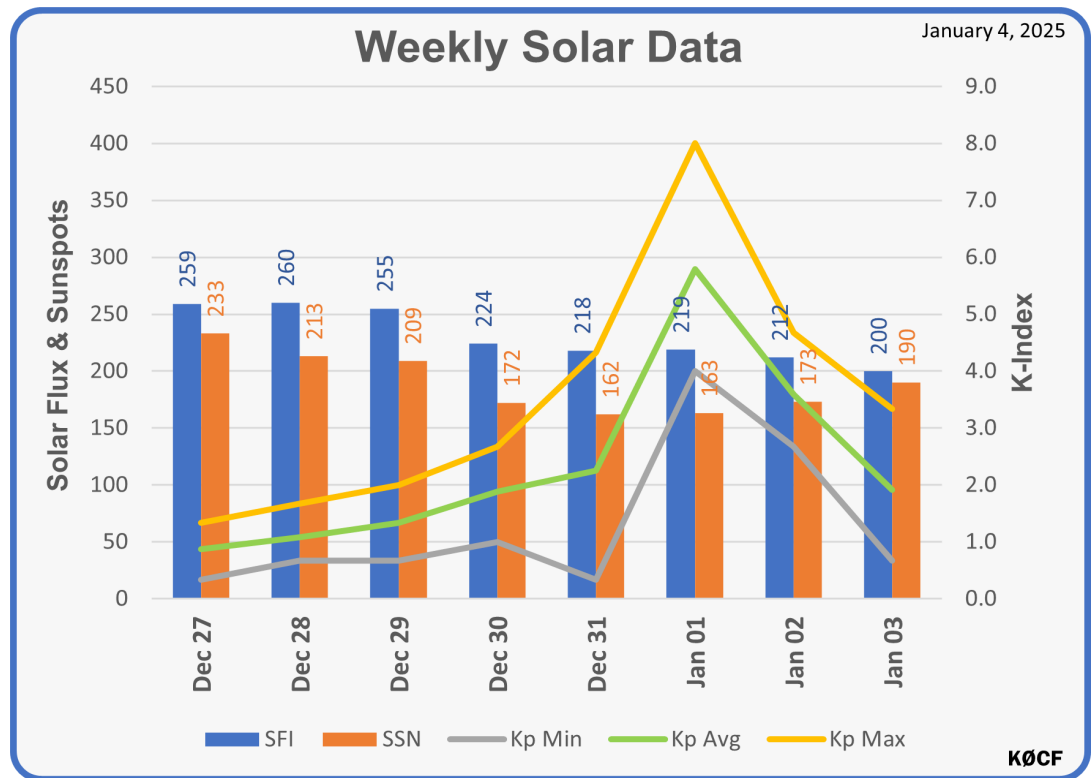
**ZS, SOUTH AFRICA.** On May 20, 2025, the South African Radio League will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The SARL Centenary Marathon QSO Party is set to kick off for a year-long operating event starting from **0000 UTC on January 1st and ending at 2359 UTC on December 31st**. Throughout the year, the SARL, with the aid of its members and associated clubs, will be on the air with a special event call sign **ZS1ØØSARL**, as well as the permanent call signs **ZS6SRL** and **ZS9HQ**, and possibly other special event call signs. A number of awards will be available, see <https://mysarl.org.za/centenary-marathon/> for more information.

-[425DXN # 1756 December 28, 2024] (1227-0124)

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## Propagation (Updated daily)





The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-index (Kp) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

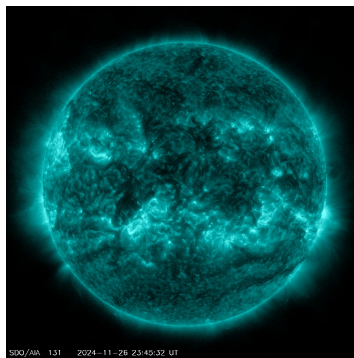
The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

*Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.*

NASA's current view of the Sun at a wave-length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.

Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!



## Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Friday, December 27th through yesterday, January 3rd.

The average solar flux was 227, down 14 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of 260 on Saturday, December 28th, followed by a low of 200 on January 3rd.

The average sunspot count was 183, down by 18 from last week, peaking at 233 on Friday, December 27th followed by a weekly low of 162 on December 31st.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 3.5 with a maximum of 8.0 on Wednesday, January 1st, indicating severe geomagnetic storm conditions. Yesterday's K-index maximum was 3.3 accompanying generally quiet conditions.

Solar flare activity since December 28th has been nearing historic levels with 41 major flares, the largest of which was a major X 1.8 event on Saturday, January 4th.

### Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Saturday, December 28th through 1358 UTC, January 4th.

| #  | Date   | UTC  | Mag.  |
|----|--------|------|-------|
| 1  | Jan 04 | 1248 | X 1.8 |
| 2  | Jan 04 | 0518 | M 7.6 |
| 3  | Jan 04 | 0036 | M 1.6 |
| 4  | Jan 03 | 2356 | M 6.0 |
| 5  | Jan 03 | 2241 | X 1.1 |
| 6  | Jan 03 | 2212 | M 2.3 |
| 7  | Jan 03 | 1139 | X 1.2 |
| 8  | Jan 02 | 1740 | M 1.1 |
| 9  | Jan 01 | 2141 | M 1.1 |
| 10 | Jan 01 | 1817 | M 1.2 |
| 11 | Jan 01 | 0445 | M 1.1 |
| 12 | Dec 31 | 2250 | M 2.9 |
| 13 | Dec 31 | 2219 | M 2.7 |
| 14 | Dec 30 | 1833 | M 1.7 |
| 15 | Dec 30 | 1742 | M 1.6 |
| 16 | Dec 30 | 1654 | M 5.0 |
| 17 | Dec 30 | 1446 | M 3.5 |
| 18 | Dec 30 | 1011 | M 1.7 |
| 19 | Dec 30 | 0850 | M 1.7 |
| 20 | Dec 30 | 0625 | M 3.5 |
| 21 | Dec 30 | 0431 | X 1.1 |
| 22 | Dec 30 | 0414 | X 1.5 |
| 23 | Dec 30 | 0300 | M 1.7 |
| 24 | Dec 30 | 0047 | M 1.7 |
| 25 | Dec 29 | 2330 | M 1.9 |
| 26 | Dec 29 | 2206 | M 1.9 |
| 27 | Dec 29 | 1841 | M 3.3 |
| 28 | Dec 29 | 1706 | M 3.4 |
| 29 | Dec 29 | 1509 | M 7.1 |
| 30 | Dec 29 | 1256 | M 1.3 |
| 31 | Dec 29 | 1224 | M 1.6 |
| 32 | Dec 29 | 1039 | M 2.6 |

|    |        |      |       |
|----|--------|------|-------|
| 33 | Dec 29 | 0718 | X 1.1 |
| 34 | Dec 29 | 0547 | M 3.5 |
| 35 | Dec 29 | 0526 | M 3.1 |
| 36 | Dec 29 | 0430 | M 2.0 |
| 37 | Dec 29 | 0330 | M 1.3 |
| 38 | Dec 29 | 0246 | M 1.3 |
| 39 | Dec 28 | 2214 | M 1.2 |
| 40 | Dec 28 | 1518 | M 1.3 |
| 41 | Dec 28 | 1121 | M 4.5 |

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

| Date  | M-Flares | X-Flares | Solar Flux |
|-------|----------|----------|------------|
| Jan 4 | 55%      | 15%      | 200        |
| Jan 5 | 55%      | 15%      | 190        |
| Jan 6 | 50%      | 10%      | 185        |

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on December 30, 2024).

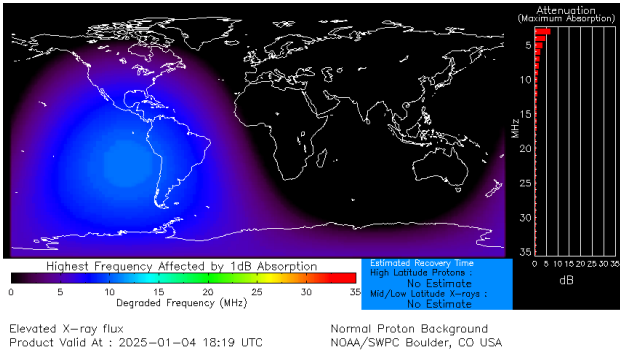
| Date  | Flux | Kp |
|-------|------|----|
| Jan 4 | 190  | 2  |
| Jan 5 | 190  | 3  |
| Jan 6 | 170  | 3  |
| Jan 7 | 160  | 2  |

| Date   | Flux | Kp |
|--------|------|----|
| Jan 8  | 160  | 2  |
| Jan 9  | 165  | 2  |
| Jan 10 | 170  | 4  |
| Jan 11 | 165  | 3  |

| Date   | Flux | Kp |
|--------|------|----|
| Jan 12 | 170  | 3  |
| Jan 13 | 170  | 2  |
| Jan 14 | 175  | 2  |
| Jan 15 | 175  | 2  |

Global D Region Absorption

Conditions in the D-region of the ionosphere have a dramatic effect on HF communications. The D-Region Absorption map combines the effects of solar particles and photons. Yellow to red colors on the map depict increasing signal attenuation, where the bar chart at the right displays attenuation versus frequency. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of D-Region Absorption:

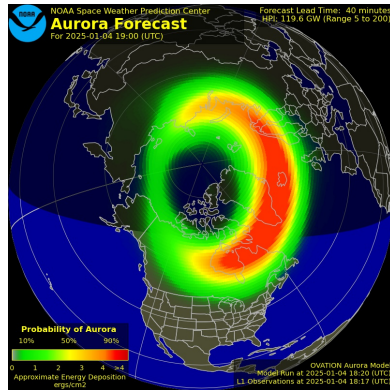


The Aurora Borealis

The aurora is not only beautiful to see but can have a profound impact on HF and VHF radio propagation. For the HF operator, auroras can result in a complete shut-down of propagation. However, on VHF, auroras present interesting DX possibilities. Beam antennas are very desirable and



should be pointed north, towards the aurora. Signals are reflected by “back-scatter” and will be distorted with a rough buzz. SSB is the best voice mode to use, but copy can be difficult. CW will have a rough buzzy sound but be perfectly copyable. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of aurora versus time:



## Highs for Cycle 25

Solar Flux: 336 on August 8, 2024.

Sunspots: 382 on August 10, 2024.

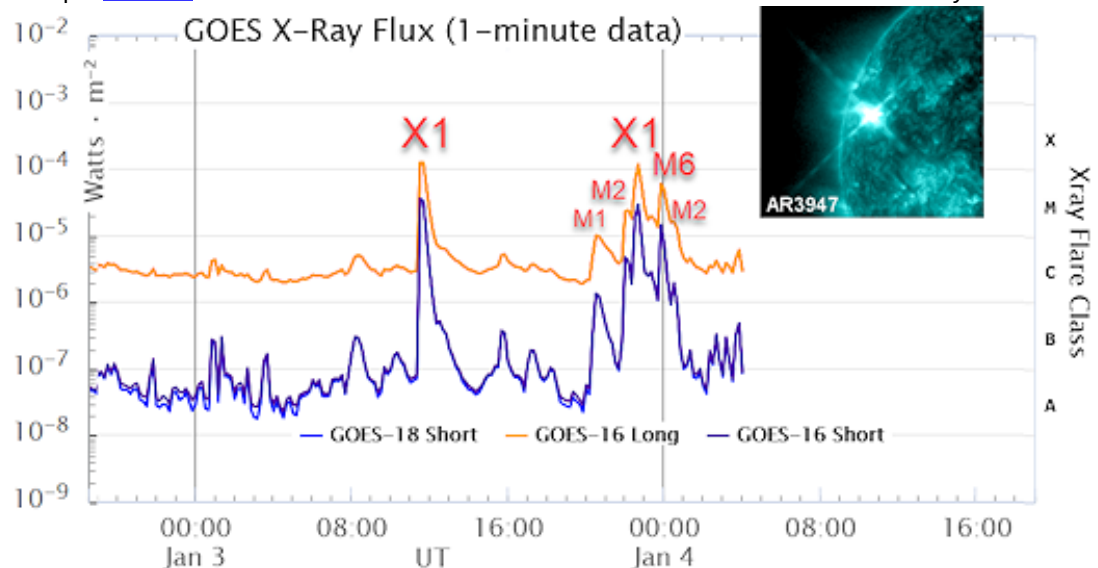
## CME Impact Sparks Minor Storm (9:47 AM CST January 4, 2025)

As predicted, [a CME hit](#) Earth's magnetic field on Jan. 4th (0445 UTC). The impact caused approximately 6 hours of minor [G1-class](#) geomagnetic storming. [Bright auroras](#) were mainly confined inside the Arctic Circle.

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## The Sun is Flaring Again

Sunspot AR3947 is sizzling with activity. Since yesterday it has produced two [X-class](#) solar flares and multiple [M-flares](#). NOAA's GOES-16 satellite recorded the extreme ultraviolet and X-ray flashes:



Each flare has produced a shortwave radio blackout on Earth. Loss of signal was especially acute over Africa (Jan 3rd) and the South Pacific (Jan 4th). Remarkably, no significant CMEs have emerged. For some reason, these explosions are not lifting material out of the sun's atmosphere.

Don't be surprised if there's another X-flare today. Sunspot AR3947 has an unstable delta-class magnetic field that is likely to explode again--and it's turning toward Earth. Stay tuned.

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## Popular Propagation web sites

<https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)

NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

<https://www.spaceweather.com/>

<https://www.solarham.com/>  
<https://dx.gsl.net/propagation/>

## A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters. However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!

-[Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources]

## Contest Calendar

### Weekly Contests

| Contest                | Start UTC |       | End   | Web Site              |
|------------------------|-----------|-------|-------|-----------------------|
| K1USN Slow Speed Test  | Monday    | 0000Z | 0100Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| ICWC Medium Speed Test | Monday    | 1300Z | 1400Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
|                        | Monday    | 1900Z | 2000Z |                       |
|                        | Tuesday   | 0300Z | 0400Z |                       |
| CWops Test (CWT)       | Wednesday | 1300Z | 1400Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
|                        | Wednesday | 1900Z | 2000Z |                       |
|                        | Thursday  | 0300Z | 0400Z |                       |
|                        | Thursday  | 0700Z | 0800Z |                       |
| Weekly RTTY Test       | Friday    | 0145Z | 0215Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| NCCC CW Sprint (NS)    | Friday    | 0230Z | 0300Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000 UTC is Sunday at 7:00 PM in the Central Daylight Saving Time zone, or Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central Standard Time zone.

### Full Calendar

| Contest                              | Start  |       | End    |       | Web Site              |
|--------------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-----------------------|
| ARRL RTTY Roundup                    | Jan 4  | 1800Z | Jan 5  | 2400Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| ARRL Kids Day                        | Jan 4  | 1800Z | Jan 4  | 2359Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| YB DX Contest                        | Jan 11 | 0000Z | Jan 11 | 2359Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| North American QSO Party, CW         | Jan 11 | 1800Z | Jan 12 | 0600Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| Hungarian DX Contest                 | Jan 18 | 1200Z | Jan 19 | 1200Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| <b>North American QSO Party, SSB</b> | Jan 18 | 1800Z | Jan 19 | 0600Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| ARRL January VHF Contest             | Jan 18 | 1900Z | Jan 20 | 0359Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW             | Jan 24 | 2200Z | Jan 26 | 2159Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| BARTG RTTY Sprint                    | Jan 25 | 1200Z | Jan 26 | 1200Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| Winter Field Day                     | Jan 25 | 1700Z | Jan 26 | 1700Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| Vermont QSO Party                    | Feb 1  | 0000Z | Feb 2  | 2400Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| 10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB       | Feb 1  | 0001Z | Feb 2  | 2359Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| Mexico RTTY International Contest    | Feb 1  | 1200Z | Feb 2  | 2359Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| Minnesota QSO Party                  | Feb 1  | 1400Z | Feb 1  | 2400Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| British Columbia QSO Party           | Feb 1  | 1600Z | Feb 2  | 2400Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| North American Sprint, CW            | Feb 2  | 0000Z | Feb 2  | 0359Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest               | Feb 8  | 0000Z | Feb 9  | 2400Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| ARRL School Club Roundup             | Feb 10 | 1300Z | Feb 14 | 2359Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| <b>ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW</b>    | Feb 15 | 0000Z | Feb 16 | 2400Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB            | Feb 21 | 2200Z | Feb 23 | 2159Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| South Carolina QSO Party             | Feb 22 | 1500Z | Feb 23 | 0159Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| North American QSO Party, RTTY       | Feb 22 | 1800Z | Feb 23 | 0600Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| North Carolina QSO Party             | Feb 23 | 1500Z | Feb 24 | 0100Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| <b>ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB</b>   | Mar 1  | 0000Z | Mar 2  | 2400Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| Open Ukraine RTTY Championship       | Mar 1  | 1800Z | Mar 2  | 1359Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| YB DX RTTY Contest                   | Mar 8  | 0000Z | Mar 8  | 2359Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| Oklahoma QSO Party                   | Mar 8  | 1400Z | Mar 9  | 2100Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| Stew Perry Topband Challenge         | Mar 8  | 1500Z | Mar 9  | 1500Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| Idaho QSO Party                      | Mar 8  | 1900Z | Mar 9  | 1900Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| North American Sprint, RTTY          | Mar 9  | 0000Z | Mar 9  | 0359Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| Wisconsin QSO Party                  | Mar 9  | 1800Z | Mar 10 | 0100Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| BARTG HF RTTY Contest                | Mar 15 | 0200Z | Mar 17 | 0200Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| Russian DX Contest                   | Mar 15 | 1200Z | Mar 16 | 1200Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| Virginia QSO Party                   | Mar 15 | 1400Z | Mar 16 | 2400Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| North American SSB Sprint Contest    | Mar 23 | 0000Z | Mar 23 | 0400Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| <b>CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB</b>        | Mar 29 | 0000Z | Mar 30 | 2400Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| Louisiana QSO Party                  | Apr 5  | 1400Z | Apr 6  | 0200Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| SP DX Contest                        | Apr 5  | 1500Z | Apr 6  | 1500Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |

-[Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) ]

